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010/014

FEB 23 2007

Docket No. F-7859

Ser. No. 10/619,103

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the specification for not reciting each term in the claims. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this position by the Examiner because claim terms need not be identically found in an application so long as the disclosure, including drawings, provides support for the terms. *In re Wilder*, 736 F.2d 1516, 222 USPQ 369 (Fed. Cir. 1984). (the words in the claims need not be expressly found in the specification so long as one of ordinary skill would recognize support for the claim terms in the specification). Here, each of the terms identified by the Examiner are clearly supported by the specification and filed drawings. However, Applicant has nonetheless amended the specification to overcome the objection.

Claim 5 has been rejected on a formal grounds and Applicant has amended the claim to overcome the rejection.

Claims 5 and 2 are rejected for being unpatentable over Budinski (US 6,305,194) as modified by Ikeuchi (JP03-146427) and Claim 6 is rejected for being unpatentable over Budinski as modified by Hirota (US 6,560,994). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

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In comparing the invention to the references Applicant has amended Claim 5 to recite:

“said intermediate member comprises a predetermined outer radial dimension and an opening with a predetermined radius, said outer radial dimension being greater than an outermost radial dimension of both of the first and second cores...”

In comparison, Ikeuchi teaches that the intermediate member has an outer radius that is the same as the outer radius of the first and second cores. This geometry is required because otherwise the sleeves 9 of the reference would not function to form the completed mold as required. Accordingly, the reference cannot be modified to provide the claimed invention and the claim as amended is patentable thereover. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 U.S.P.Q. 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (a proposed modification to a reference cannot render the reference unsatisfactory for its intended purpose); *In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 854, 144 U.S.P.Q. 347 (CCPA 1965) (a proposed modification to a reference cannot eliminate a desired feature).

Regarding Claim 6, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 6 recites:

“obtaining first and second molding cores 10, 11, each including an end tip, and obtaining an intermediate member 4...

each molding core comprises a compression molding surface disposed on said end tip...

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said intermediate member comprises a predetermined outer radial dimension and an opening with a predetermined radius...

said end tip of said first molding core having a radially outer dimension that is smaller than the radius of the opening of said intermediate member; and

said end tip of said second molding core having a radially outer dimension that is (1) larger than the radius of the opening of said intermediate member and (2) smaller than the outer radial dimension of said intermediate member so that a platform for positioning said intermediate member is formed on said end tip of said second molding core..."

In reviewing Hirota, the Examiner cites element 53 of Fig. 5 as the intermediate member and element 52 as the second molding core. The Examiner asserts that the end tip of the second molding core has a radially outer dimension that is larger than the radius of the opening of the intermediate member. However, for the following reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that this is an improper assessment of Hirota's structure by the Examiner.

The end tip of the second molding core is claimed as having a compression molding surface, and this structural feature is required for Hirota's surface having a radially outer dimension that is larger than the radius of the opening of the intermediate member. In Hirota's second molding core 52, the surface serving as the compression molding surface has a radially outer dimension that is the same as the intermediate member. The radially outward step below the compression molding surface in Fig. 5 of the reference is not the compression molding surface

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so that the diameter of that surface relative to the intermediate member is not a structural relationship which is comparable to the claimed structure and therefore does not serve to render unpatentable the claimed structure. Accordingly, Claim 6 is patentable over the reference in its current state.

Moreover, regarding both claims 5 and 6, the claims differ from Ikeuchi for the following reasons. In Ikeuchi, there are multiple components as compared to the claimed invention because when molding more than one microlens array, a sleeve and intermediate member is provided for each set of upper and lower dies. However, in the claimed invention, because one intermediate member is provided for multiple cores, its installation has an economical advantage of requiring fewer parts and it is installed more expeditiously. As such, the claimed invention differs from the referenced art and the claims are patentable thereover.

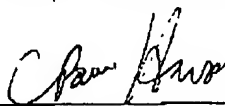
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In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.


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